

DESALINATION PLANT, RENEWABLE ENERGY

114. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer the minister to the answer he provided last week about the powering of the desalination plant by renewable energy.

- (1) Why did the minister alter *Hansard* to change his answer from stating that the government directed the Water Corporation to use renewable energy to stating that the decision was made by the Water Corporation?
- (2) If the decision to power the desalination plant by renewable energy was made by the Water Corporation, why was it announced in the Labor Party policy in the lead-up to the election rather than by the Water Corporation itself?
- (3) Given that the Water Corporation has previously stated that it was committed to purchasing gas-powered electricity to fuel the plant, did the government officially direct the Water Corporation to switch to renewable energy; and, if so, when was this directive issued?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (1)-(3) The question is predicated on a misunderstanding and an intention to imply things that are not there, in suggesting that somehow I was answering a different question. The minor changes I made to *Hansard* did not go to that extent at all; they were simply made to reflect more accurately what I said. The member will find that there is nothing sinister whatsoever in that. The issue was that those announcements were of decisions made by the government in consultation with the Water Corporation. There was no formal direction to the Water Corporation. What the government was trying to do in providing secure water for the people of Western Australia fitted very much with the agenda of the Water Corporation, which also wanted to ensure that secure sources of water were available in the south west of Western Australia. In that case there was a meeting of minds between the view of the government and the view of the Water Corporation, and therefore there was no difficulty. For the member to suggest that somehow there was something sinister only shows the way his petty mind works, and not the facts of the matter.